

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claim 1, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please ADD new claims as indicated below:

1-91. (CANCELED)

92. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a first compensator compensating wavelength dispersion, the first compensator having a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths; and

a second compensator compensating wavelength dispersion after wavelength dispersion is compensated by the first compensator, wherein the first and second compensators together compensate for wavelength dispersion dependent on a respective wavelength of a transmission line.

93. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 92, further comprising:

a housing which houses, and thereby encloses, both the first and second compensators.

94. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 92, further comprising:

a substrate on which both the first and second compensators are fixed.

95. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 92, further comprising:

a substrate on which both the first and second compensators are fixed.

96. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 92, wherein the respective wavelength is the wavelength of a respective signal light included in a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) light transmitted through the transmission line and including a plurality of signal lights at different wavelength multiplexed together.

97. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 92, wherein the first compensator is a virtually imaged phased array (VIPA) dispersion compensator.

98. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

first means for compensating wavelength dispersion, the first means having a constant

wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths; and

second means for compensating wavelength dispersion after wavelength dispersion is compensated by the first means, wherein the first and second means together compensate for wavelength dispersion dependent on a respective wavelength of a transmission line.

99. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 98, further comprising:

a housing which houses, and thereby encloses, both the first and second compensators.

100. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a first compensator compensating for wavelength dispersion, the first compensator having a constant wavelength dispersion characteristic over a plurality of wavelengths; and

a second compensator compensating for dispersion slope over the plurality of wavelengths after the compensation by the first compensator.

101. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 100, further comprising:

a housing which houses, and thereby encloses, both the first and second compensators.

102. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 100, further comprising:

a substrate on which both the first and second compensators are fixed.

103. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 101, further comprising:

a substrate on which both the first and second compensators are fixed.

104. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 100, wherein the first and second compensators together compensate for dispersion of a respective wavelength of a respective signal light included in a wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) light transmitted through a transmission line and including a plurality of signal lights at different wavelength multiplexed together.

105. (NEW) An apparatus as in claim 100, wherein the first compensator is a virtually imaged phased array (VIPA) dispersion compensator.